

- Apalachee Indian until 1704
  - destroyed by English + Indian raiders
- 1750, Creek + Seminoles settled what had been vacated including St. Vincent Island

- <sup>early</sup> 1800's, during 2nd period of Spanish rule in Florida, after 20 yrs of British control, the large Scottish-English trading house (Panton, Leslie + Company) traded w/ Indians
  - ↳ Later became known as John Forbes + Co. - 1st chain store in Florida

- Indian trouble (raiding outlying parts of the company) led to John Forbes purchase of 1,250,000 square Indian as settlement of debt owed resulting from the raids
  - Nearly all land lay between St. Marks + Apalachicola Rivers
  - Transfer occurred between 1804 + 1811
  - Parcel containing St. Vincent occurred later

- When the U.S. was ceded Florida by Spain in 1821, US contacted Forbes that lands title @ time when lands were in ownership of Macantelli Carnochan + Mitchell

- Settled in 1835, U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of Mitchell company → Apalachicola Land Co in 1835
- 1858 Roland Floyd bought island, less 10 acres to U.S.
- 1868 George Hatch bought island for \$3,000.00

Banker  
Farm Road, Ann.

- Controversy between Hatch's widow (Elizabeth Wiggins) + her son, Francis Avery occurred between 1876 + 1884.

Avery was declared owner, subject to widow's dower rights,  $\frac{1}{3}$

- 1887 Avery sold to Mrs. Hatch

- 1890 General E. P. Alexander bought island for \$12,500.00 (South Island Co.)

- 1907 So. Land Co. sold to Dr. R. V. Pierce; Mrs. Hatch also sold to Pierce same yr.  $\therefore$  title cleared

- 1908 - 3 kinds + 1 dog

(Pierce's Proprietaries, Inc. still manufactured in 1969)  
Pierce Dev. Co. - purchased St. Vincent Island

- Dr. R. V. Pierce

- V. Matt Pierce (son)

- Franklin D. Pierce (brother)

- 1925 - sold to Land Speculator Vernon - Price William for an agreed 350,000.00) VPW went broke + sold to Big Four Investment Co. in 1927 <sup>then suicide</sup>

$\therefore$  Pierce had to redeem the land @ a tax sale in 1930 + owned Big Four

- 1932, Court ordered Big Four to pay \$200,000.00 <sup>by Nov</sup> or have be foreclosed + auction. An Auction  $\therefore$  occurred. Pierce bought island again for \$100,000

- June 1948, sold to Henry + Alfred L. Loomis + wife \$140,000.00

- 1961 Black Bucks, zebra & Eland introduced  
'by Zoois'

- 1920's Island grown beef cattle sold to  
Apalachicola markets

- 1940 - Fed. granted oyster lease to Dewey Miller  
(Big Bayou)

- St. Joe Lumber & Export Company of Perry

- 5 yr. contract

- 20,000,000 bd. ft.

- \$ 125,000

- only seven for \$5/M

- 1942

- built access bridge

- 1942 - Pierce estate granted U.S. Coast Guard  
permission to erect a range marker on south  
shore (50 ft.<sup>2</sup>)

- 1944 - What became Marathon Oil Co., Ohio,  
oil exploration rights

- 3,625 annually for 10 yrs w/  
1/8 royalty on discovered oil

- cancelled their lease in 1949 -  
apparently never drilled

- Fl. leased St. Vincent Sound bottom to  
Magnolia Petroleum Co. - who never  
drilled

Late Forties - leased hunting rights to group of  
Florida Sportsmen

- 1968 Nature Conservancy bought Island for \$2.2 million  
7/9/68 → Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife

- An estimated 120 were legally harvested
  - illegal kill probably greater
- Hunting lease terminated in 1948
  - when island sold to Loomis family